



Anoka City Hall, Work Session Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), 5:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 12, 2023**



- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes
  - a. July 13, 2023 Regular Meeting
- IV. Old Business
  - a. WPA Stone Stoves
  - b. Sandwich Board Sign Program
- V. New Business
- VI. Committee Reports
  - a. Heritage Preservation Award Committee (Silberg-Jurek, Thurston)
  - b. Fundraising Committee (Rahn, Collins)
  - c. Event Committee (Ward, McFarland, Hansen)
- VII. Miscellaneous
- VIII. Adjournment



**Minutes of the  
Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC)**

**Held at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, July 13, 2023  
Committee Room, Anoka City Hall**

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Bart Ward called the regular meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call**
  - Members present: Chair Bart Ward, Commissioners Barb Thurston, James Collins, Colleen Hansen, Cory Rahn, Lisa Silberg-Jurek
  - Members absent: Commissioner Elizabeth McFarland
  - Others present: Anoka County Commissioner Mandy Meisner, Anoka County Historical Society: President Rich Oxley, Vice President Steve Florman, Members Dennis Berg, Daryl Lawrence, Executive Director Rebecca Ebnet-Desens
  - Staff present: Clark Palmer, Senior City Planner
- III. **Approval of Minutes**

None.
- IV. **Old Business**
  - A. **Joint Meeting with Anoka County Historical Society**

Chair Ward invited members of the Anoka County Historical Society to introduce themselves then reviewed the Heritage Preservation Commission's (HPC) projects and goals.

Executive Director Rebecca Ebnet-Desens said every quarter the Society works to meet within the County to connect with history-minded groups to learn and know more about how they can do better together. She shared the recent meeting at the City of Fridley where they learned more about the former Embers Restaurant and how Anoka County built upon itself and that by working together, they will be stronger together. She said they wanted to hear about what Anoka has been doing and suggested placing Anoka historical information on their website to expand the reach then asked for information regarding the HPC's programs such as the sandwich board and medallion signs.

Chair Ward explained the process and criteria currently used for the programs that recognized a property owner's work to preserve historic homes and difficulties in continuing the program that can be costly as the original signs fade and need replacement.

Senior City Planner Clark Palmer said staff has received a small number of inquiries for signs and noted they were not available for purchase but need to be awarded then said he could share the application with the Historical Society for wider distribution. He noted many times potential homeowners learn about historical homes through their realtors and want to understand if there are any requirements with regard to historical preservation should they purchase. He added the programs were created mostly to recognize those who maintain the character of their historical homes.

Commissioner Thurston explained the creation of the three historical districts in the City, including the Downtown area, Christian Hill, and Van Buren.

Chair Ward outlined how the HPC was somewhat regulated and an advisory committee to advise the Council on items for consideration. He reviewed the powers and duties and how they recommend rules and regulations, conduct surveys, educate and promote, and conduct permit review and provide recommendations for renovations and demolitions. He spoke about the Veterans homes and Anoka Agricultural Area and requirements such as façade maintenance.

Mr. Palmer said the HPC was established in 1998 as a seven- member Commission and established the heritage preservation ordinance that established the historic downtown core district and created guidelines for the districts. He spoke about the City register, interpretive signs, neighborhood signs, historic home and national register plaques, witch medallion pavers, and awards programs such as the recent Federal Cartridge event for their 100-year anniversary. He shared example properties throughout the City then highlighted the WPA sidewalk preservation at Madison and 3<sup>rd</sup>. He referred to the stone stoves and work to raise funds to restore then spoke about the Anoka Water Works and Power Company building, Gidding House, Riverwalk park plan, and evaluation on City Hall.

Commissioner Rahn spoke about the work to expand the registry and the list of 30 sites for ultimate inclusion once historical studies have been conducted.

Mr. Palmer said the City has nine national sites of the 18 in the County and how the HPC ordinance works to protect those properties into the future. He said there's been some concern regarding designation without a plan and funds to maintain the sites which is important.

Commissioner Thurston shared history of City Hall and how it was constructed in the shape of revolver to recognize Federal Cartridge.

Ms. Ebnet-Desens spoke about the CLEO location services app and the idea to create a walking/driving tour for historic sites in Anoka and suggested connecting together with the Society to include tour sight locations in the County as well, especially if evaluation reports can be uploaded.

Commissioner Rahn suggested sharing the City's list of sites to see if the Society thinks any properties were missing. Discussion was held on historic sites in Anoka such as the Milk Factory, Agricultural Area, Sandburg School, school signs, swimming beach, and cemeteries.

Commissioner Thurston referred to signage installed at Main and Ferry Streets near Caribou to recognize [REDACTED] and the Civil War.

Ms. Ebnet-Desens asked about the City website and where the reports were posted in order to link from their website as well. Mr. Palmer said that could be shared.

Chair Ward inquired about other cities with HPCs. Ms. Ebnet-Desens said Coon Rapids and Fridley both have HPCs.

Chair Ward spoke about work to recognize interior preservation work as well.

Mr. Palmer shared about the restoration project at the former Sports Shack and Mill Site event center.

Chair Ward and Ms. Ebnet-Desens thanked the group for the time and information shared and left the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Oxley thanked the group for the time and the HPC's interest in historic items and sites.

V. **New Business**

A. **Recap of Riverfest 2023**

Mr. Palmer recapped sales of pavers and medallions that occurred at Riverfest on July 8.

Vice Chair Thurston confirmed the current inventory of pavers.

Commissioner Rahn suggested a future pumpkin design be created for medallions then spoke about addresses for possible sandwich boards.

Mr. Palmer shared that the Masonic Lodge has requested recognition of their building through the sandwich board program. Discussion was held on the state of the building and its age.

Commissioner Rahn spoke another level of recognition then suggested the HPC conduct a walking tour meeting for review of sites and to take a photo of the Commission in front of the newly-installed WPA sign.

Commissioner Collins asked about current membership of the Masonic Lodge.

Commissioner Silberg-Jurek said she would provide the list of homes she is suggested be included for review as potential historic sites.

Discussion was held on the proposal to stabilize the stone stoves.

Mr. Palmer suggested the proposed concrete sealer may not be the best.

Vice Chair Thurston agreed and said it would be best to have them properly restored and said follow-up was needed regarding Chair Ward's contact for this work.

VI. **Committee Reports**

A. **Heritage Preservation Award Committee (Silberg-Jurek, Thurston)**

Mr. Palmer shared about The Hub and if it was appropriate to contact the property owners.

Discussion was held about potential properties for consideration such as 733 Jefferson Street.

B. **Fundraising Committee (Rahn, Collins)**

Commissioner Rahn noted the property owners at 317 Rice purchased a paver and was interested in obtaining a sandwich board.

Vice Chair Thurston spoke about restoring the remaining witch medallion on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue or including it on Jackson Street as part of the new social district.

Mr. Palmer reviewed current construction and where the witch medallion could be incorporated. He added 10K Brewing was interested in installing pavers in front of their brewery.

Commissioner Rahn suggested painting the medallion image on the walking bridge for it to be visible from above.

C. **Event Committee (Ward, McFarland, Hansen)**

No further update.

VII. **Miscellaneous**

None.

VIII. **Adjournment**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN BY COMMISSIONER RAHN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HANSEN, MOTION CARRIED 5-0 AT 6:30 P.M.**